

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Epps et al (US 6977930).

Applicant submits the following in traversal.

**Rejection of claims 1-12 under § 102(e) as being anticipated by Epps**

**Claim 1**

Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable. Claim 1 recites a header processing unit, *inter alia*, for reporting to the packet memory management unit the **pointer** of the IP packet trailer to be connected to the IP packet header. Epps, however, discloses reporting both the header and trailer from the pipelined switch 220 to the receive buffer manager 240 and the receive packet buffer 245 (col. 15, lines 12-27). Applicant notes that packets 113, comprising a header and a tail portion (col. 5, lines 44-46), received from the network through the network physical interface 210 that are reported to the receive buffer manager 240 are **data streams** (col. 4, lines 57-60) and not pointers of data streams. Therefore, the header and tail portions that are separated in the receive FIFO 215 are not pointers, but data streams received from the network through the network physical interface 210.

In addition, Applicant submits that Epps fails to disclose or suggest a packet memory management unit, *inter alia*, for **reading out a pointer** of an IP packet header and a pointer of an IP packet trailer connected to the IP packet header. Epps, on the other hand, discloses separating the incoming packets 113 into a header portion and a tail portion by a byte counter 310 in the receive FIFO 215 (col. 5, lines 44-46) and discloses a receive datapath in the pipelined switch

220 that reads in a new header portion from receive FIFO 215 (col. 5, lines 62-64). Therefore, by merely separating the header and tail portion and reading the header portion, where the header and tail portions, as discussed above, are data streams and not pointers, Epps fails to disclose or suggest a packet memory management unit, *inter alia*, for reading out a pointer of an IP packet header and a pointer of an IP packet trailer connected to the IP packet header.

Also, Epps discloses the routing/switching of IPv4 packets (col. 5, lines 33-38) that are received from the network through network physical interface 210 (col. 5, lines 6-7). Since, Epps discloses receiving IPv4 packets, the reference fails to disclose or suggest a packet memory management unit for **assembling** the first data into an Internet Protocol (IP) packet.

For at least the reasons submitted above, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to those submitted for claim 1, Applicant submits that claim 6 is patentable.

Claims 3-5, 7-10, 11 and 12 which depend from claim 1 or 6, are patentable at least by virtue of their dependencies.

#### Claim 2

The Examiner maintains that Epps discloses a packet generator for **generating the IP packet** from the first data. The box Fetch 410 as claimed by the Examiner to satisfy the above claim, however, is merely a mode for providing physical transmission of the packet header (only) from receive FIFO 215 into the pipelined switch 220 (col. 6, lines 17-22). Epps also discloses various checks on the header performed by the box Fetch 410 such as IP header checksum. By merely disclosing the physical transmission of the packet header and checks performed on the

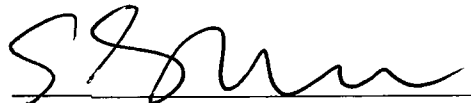
header, Epps fails to disclose or suggest a packet generator for generating the IP packet from the first data.

Claim 2 which depends from claim 1, is patentable for at least the reasons submitted above and for reasons similar to those submitted for its base claim.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: January 7, 2009